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Message Text

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41
ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HEW-02 RSC-01 /020 W
---------- 023665
R 141548Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5832

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DEPT FOR OES/SCI:ADDISON RICHMOND

E.O. 11652 : N/A
TAGS: TECH, TGEN, FR
SUBJECT: PROPOSED NIH-FRENCH CANCER COOPERATION PROJECT

REF: STATE 005564

1. SUBSTANTIVE BACKGROUND MATERIAL REQUESTED REFTEL IS HELD BY DR. PAUL CARBONE. ACCORDING TO LOCHAK, WHO HAS BEEN THE VIGOROUS INSTIGATOR OF THIS PROJECT, CARBONE HAS BEEN IN DIRECT AND LETTER CORRESPONDENCE ON THIS SUBJECT WITH FRENCH PHYSICIAN AND PROJECT PROPOSER DR. ISRAEL FOR SOME MONTHS. IN A LETTER OF 20 NOVEMBER 1974 TO DR. CARBONE. DR. ISRAEL PROPOSED COOPERATIVE RESEARCH; REFTEL PROPOSAL IS CARBONE'S RESPONSE TO ISRAEL.

2. SINCE LOCHAK FIRST APPROACHED US WITH THIS PROPOSAL FOR FRENCH-AMERICAN COOPERATION IN CLINICAL CANCER TREATMENT RESEARCH OUR POSITION HAS BEEN TO DEFER EVALUATION UNTIL RECEIVING THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE'S FORMAL RESPONSE. FYI: LOCHAK CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MANY HIGH OFFICIALS IN BOTH GOVERNMENTS AT VARIOUS TIMES IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSAL. HE WAS VERY ANXIOUS TO HAVE A JOINT-PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT FAVORING THIS PROJECT BE MADE DURING THE MARTINIQUE MEETING. AS RECENTLY AS 9 JANUARY DGRST OFFICIAL REMARKED TO
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SCIATT ON THE PRESSURE LOCHAK WAS BRINGING TO BEAR VIA

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HIGH LEVEL FRENCH GOVERNMENTAL CONTACTS. DGRST OFFICIAL FURTHER STATED THAT INSERM/DGRST'S STRATEGY FOR RESPONDING TO THIS PRESSURE IS TO GIVE THE PROPOSAL FAIR CONSIDERATION BUT REQUIRE THAT IT FIT INTO THE EXISTING FRANCO-AMERICAN BILATERAL COOPERATION PROGRAM RATHER THAN BESTOW SPECIAL STATUS, WHICH LOCHAK WOULD LIKE, AS PRECURSOR OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, OR SOME EQUIVALENT GRANDIOSE INSTITUTION. ONCE THE U.S. (NCI) SIDE EXPRESSES APPROVAL, INSERM PLANS TO SEND AN EXPERT TO THE U.S. TO DISCUSS PROJECT IN DETAIL. WE PRESUME NCI AWARE THAT AT LEAST ONE WELL KNOWN FRENCH CANCER RESEARCHER AND CLINICIAN DOES NOT APPROVE OF DR. ISRAEL'S WORK.

3. EMBASSY SCICON SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL BRIEFLY AT THE JANUARY 23 P.M. MEETING AT STATE DEPARTMENT WITH DR. CURIEN. DGRST IS OBVIOUSLY FEELING PRESSURE TO MAKE THIS COOPERATIVE PROJECT A "BIG DEAL", BUT IS DETERMINED TO TREAT IT AS A NORMAL PROPOSAL. WE BELIEVE NIH CURRENT TECH TECHNICAL EVALUATION FRANKLY PRESENTED WOULD BE WELCOMED AND HELPFUL.
RUSH

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